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Amendment in Response to Office Action of 11/12/2004

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of 11/12/2004 has been reviewed.

The Examiner has objected to the disclosure. In response thereto, applicant has amended Page 2, line 5, as suggested by the Examiner by adding "now abandoned" to clarify the status of the parent application.

The Examiner has objected to Claim 1 for informalities. In response thereto, applicant has amended Claim 1, lines 61-62 as suggested by the Examiner, i.e., "an eighteenth stream 18" has been corrected to --an eighteenth stream--.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner has then rejected Claims 2 - 6 "under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)". Insofar as these rejections apply to Claims 2 - 6, they are deemed moot, since Claims 2 - 6 have been canceled by amendment herein.

Note is taken of the Examiner's indication that Claims 1 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in the Office Action. In response thereto, applicant has amended Claims 1 and 7 in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestions. More specifically, Claim 1, line 52, "ninteenth stream which

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includes" has been replaced by --nineteenth stream and to output a sixteenth stream and a seventeenth stream, the nineteenth stream including--. In line 59, "streams 5 and 11" has been replaced with --the fifth stream and the seventeenth stream--. In Claim 7, line 8, --an initial-- has been inserted before "flocculant injection ring" and in line 11 --a secondary-- has been inserted before "flocculant injection ring."

It is deemed that these amendments to the claims overcome all objections and rejections and place this application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested.